



MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL BALLAJURA SCHOOL TAKES THE LEAD ON ASTHMA ED!

Mrs. Vicki Grant, from Ballajura Primary School felt that it was crucial for all the students at the school to improve their knowledge of asthma. Given that asthma affects 1 in 6 children under the age of 15 years, the Asthma Foundation of WA was very keen to support her in her endeavours.

Towards the end of Term 3 and during Asthma Week Mrs. Grant developed and presented asthma education sessions to approximately 400 students in Years 1 - 6. Each classroom was then encouraged to complete an activity that tested their imagination and asthma knowledge. This concluded in a winner being chosen from each class and announced at the school assembly.

Fundraising was also a component of the event. One of Mrs. Grant's initiatives was to create a 2metre high picture of Asthma Action Man, an educational resource of the Asthma Foundation. Every time a student made a coin donation to the Asthma Foundation of WA, a section of the hero's lungs were coloured with red. The end result was that Asthma Action Man had a very healthy set of bright red lungs!

Communication Education Manager, Yvonne Ashworth was invited to attend the assembly with CEO of the Asthma Foundation, John Gummer. Yvonne said, "This was an exciting initiative undertaken by the school to put their asthma education in to action. The students showed great enthusiasm and commitment and we look forward to working with them in the future".

During the interactive lessons the children learnt about common asthma triggers, medications and how they work and most importantly how to assess and manage an asthma emergency situation.

"Asthma affects over 220,000 people in WA. It's a potentially dangerous disease, but if their asthma is properly managed, people can live a healthy life and keep doing all the things they enjoy," Yvonne Ashworth said.

Ballajura Primary School is an Asthma Friendly School. The National Asthma Friendly Schools Program is a very practical way for whole school communities to improve the health outcomes for school-aged Australians with asthma.

For more information about the Asthma Foundation of WA and the services for the community, please visit www.asthmawa.org.au or call 9289 3600.

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Please find a photograph of Mrs Grant with students from Ballajura Primary School. To schedule further photographs at the West Perth office with the CEO and/or Asthma Educators please call the Media Contact.

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